Railway Safety Commission

3986. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Railways is free to introduce new train services without the official permission from the Railway Safety Commission for starting new trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Standing Committee on Railways has insisted that it must be obligatory on the part of the Railway Ministry to receive a regular permission from the Commission of Railways Safety before introducing new train services; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto and whether Railway Ministry propose to grant statutory status to the Railway Safety Commission to avoid the increasing number of railway accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Permission from Commissioner of Railway Safety is taken in the cases of introduction of trains on new section & gauge converted sections and where new type of rolling stock is to be run.

(c) Standing Committee on Railways (2004) of Fourteenth Lok Sabha has not insisted to take regular permission from the Commission of Railway Safety before introducing new train services. However, vide recommendation No. 18 of 5th Report, the Committee was informed that the Commissioner of Railway Safety is not consulted before announcement of new trains. However all the conditions and recommendations of the Commission are given due consideration by the Ministry of Railways. Before issuing the final sanction to the opening of a new line/segment, recorded compliance is obtained from the concerned railway and only after getting the satisfactory compliance, the sanction of the Ministry is issued. In very rare cases, where it is not possible to accept some of the recommendations of the Commission, the Ministry issues the sanction by recording the reasons.

(d) Under Chapter III of Railways Act 1989, the Commission of Railway Safety is a statutory body.